[5th November 1935

Police

Need for the continuance of the Malabar Special Police Force.

* 443 *Q*.—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Malabar Special Police Force was created;

(*b*) what the circumstances were that warranted the creation of the same; and

(*c*) whether there is still necessity to continue the Malabar Special Police?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Malabar Special Police was first constituted in 1921 to supplement the operations of the Military in connexion with the Mappilla rebellion of 1920–21.

(*c*) Yes.

General

Declaration of Sri Rama Navami as a holiday for all Hindus.

* 444 *Q*.—Mr. G. Rameswara Rao: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are contemplating to declare Sri Rama Navami as a general holiday for all Hindus; and

(*b*) whether the term 'Vaishnavites' in relation to this holiday has been defined anywhere, and if so, what it is?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) No, but the term is well understood and includes only those who worship Vishnu solely.

Mr. G. Rameswara Rao:—"Is the Hon. Member aware that Sri Rama Navami is observed as a day of fasting and prayer by all classes of the Hindu community whether they are Vaishnavites or not?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"I cannot say, Sir."

Mr. G. Rameswara Rao:—"May I request the Hon. Member to make enquiries, if necessary, from his Indian colleagues and from other agencies?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"I do not think it necessary, Sir."

Irrigation

Restrictions on the user of the water in the Kalingarayan Channel, Erode taluk.

* 445 *Q*.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) for how many months water is allowed in the Kalingarayan channel in Erode taluk of Coimbatore district and what the period is during which water is allowed in the channel,

(*b*) whether the authorities can prevent the ryots from taking water for their fields during the period of flow, and, if so, on what authority;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the authorities have prevented the ryots from taking water even after the 1st June this year, and, if so, on what authority and circumstances;